

Eklof House and Store
2628 North Rogers Avenue
HO-612

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This building is important as an intact example of late Victorian vernacular architecture in Howard County and for its role as the Jonestown/Rockland general store during the early 20th century.

Eklof House and Store
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HISTORIC PERIOD CONTEXT:

Region: Piedmont
Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance
Theme: Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community
Planning
Resource Type: Residence/store/rural vernacular
Site Types: Standing structures

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HO-612

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name) Eklof House and Store

historic Eklof House and Store

and/or common Brun House

2. Location

street & number 2628 North Rogers Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City ☐ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Howard

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John and Sherrie Brun

street & number 2628 North Rogers Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County liber 1888

street & number 8360 Court Avenue folio 362

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-612

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Originally built as a single-family house with a one-story storefront attached, 2628 N. Rogers Avenue is part of a collection of four nearly identical late-Victorian houses that line the short stretch of North Rogers Avenue between I-70 and Old Frederick Road. The house is located on a 1/2 acre lot on the west side of North Rogers Avenue about 50 feet from the street. Built between 1880 and 1900, this 2 1/2-story I-house is three bays long and one bay wide with a center cross gable. Like other houses along this section of Rogers Avenue, it has artificial siding probably over clapboard, but the second floor is highly decorated with shingle patterns which cover the eave and gable sides. The pattern is ornate, incorporating a number of shingle designs. There are alternating courses of fishscale, diamonds and sawtooth shingles. This pattern continues into the gable dormer, which holds a round-arch 2/2 sash window, and is embellished with bargeboard. The door is glazed with multiple fixed panes of glass and a narrow transom and sidelights.

The fenestration is symmetrical with two elongated windows surrounding a center entrance door and three standard double hung 2/2 sash windows spaced evenly along the second floor.

The house has an asphalt roof and random fieldstone foundation. There is a narrow brick chimney on the north side of the gable ridge. A 3/4-widt' hipped roof porch with a tongue and groove wood floor is supported by wrought iron posts added during the second half of this century. A small one-story two bay by one bay ell with aluminum siding and a concrete foundation was added to the southwest corner of the house during the second half of this century.

There are two contributing outbuildings west of the house: a three bay frame carriage house with two gabled dormers and an early auto frame garage with hinged doors which was used as a workshop and storage area for the store.

The adjacent storefront on the north is a one-story square building, three bays by three bays, this building has a fanciful falsefront that rises about four feet above the gabled-roof. The facade displays virtually the identical shingle patterns as its neighbor, with alternating courses of sawtooth, fishscale and diamond-in-fishscale shingles. The cornice of the parapet, which is broken in three sections with the center section rising above the sections on the ends, is decorated with plain rectangular brackets. Atop the center section is a curved wood-carving which resembles two "S" shapes lying on their sides.

Description continued. See attached statement.

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-612

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

This building is important as an intact example of late Victorian vernacular architecture in Howard County and for its role as the Jonestown/Rockland general store during the early 20th century.

Statement continued. See attached sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HO-612

Howard County Land Records
Interviews with Sherrie Brun, George William Eklof, Jr.
and Anna Moore

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .514Quadrangle name Ellicott City, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 17

Block 18

Parcel 486

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Worden, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning date _____street & number 3430 Court House Drive telephone (410) 313-2037city or town Ellicott City state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2026
(410) 514-7600

7. DESCRIPTION

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The facade fenestration on the first floor is identical to its neighbor with two elongated double hung 2/2 sash windows flanking a central door. The door is glazed with multiple fixed panes of glass. The house has a full-width hipped-roof front porch supported by four turned wood posts with ornate scrolled brackets. A brick chimney is located in the center of the slope of the roof. There is a one-bay shed roof addition on the rear of the house.

The house and store are excellent examples of late-Victorian vernacular architecture and retain their historic integrity.

2628 North Rogers Avenue
HO-612
Significance Statement Continued

The structure is made up of two distinct sections. The two-story gable roofed house functioned as the storekeepers residence and the one-story adjacent storefront. Together, the buildings boast one of the most fanciful Queen Ann shingle patterns in the county. The shingles cover not only the gable dormer but run across the length of the second story facade and continue across the "false" second story of the store. The store appears to have been built at the same time as the house and has a decorative, parapeted false front.

Built by Charles Ross about 1900, the house and store were operated by Ross until after World War I when George William Eklof bought it. Eklof ran the store until 1933 when it was sold at auction. As the only general store between Ellicott City and Woodstock, the store served a large area and provided vital general merchandise to residents of the area for whom a drive to Ellicott City was a arduous trip along hilly unpaved roads. Merchandise was shipped into a central warehouse on upper Frederick Road in Ellicott City where owners of small stores such as Eklof picked up goods by wagon. During the period that Eklof owned it, the store was divided into two separate sections. The shed-roofed section in the rear held feed, turpentine, kerosene and nails. The front was dedicated to dry goods, flour, sugar and bread.

The store handled mostly walk-in traffic, but during the 1920s Eklof's also offered delivery service to residents in Alberton, the mill town northeast of Rockland. Also during the 1920s, the Eklof's rented a room to the school teacher who taught seven grades at the one room Rockland School, which was located on the east side of Rogers Avenue south of the new Rockland Square Development.

In the mid 1930s, John Baker converted the store to an apartment and the interior was significantly altered. Shortly after Eklof's store closed, Jacob Bassler opened a store at the southeast corner of Old Frederick Road and North Rogers Avenue which operated until the 1950s. During the 1940s chain supermarkets began appearing on the outskirts of Ellicott City and along the new U.S. 40 which contributed to the demise of the area's small town general stores.

The building's elaborate shingle pattern is unusual and it represents an intact example of a turn-of-the-century combination store/residence. Although aluminum siding was added to the house, no significant changes occurred to the store. Because the store closed in the 1930s without having had any alterations, the building was never modernized and its integrity was not compromised.

**2628
North Rogers Avenue
Ellicott City Quad
HO-612
HOWARD COUNTY**







